



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

February 11, 2015

BEN LOMBARD, TREASURER  
MAINE REPUBLICAN PARTY  
9 HIGGINS STREET  
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

**Response Due Date**  
**03/18/2015**

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00003111

REFERENCE: AMENDED OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT (09/01/2014 - 09/30/2014),  
RECEIVED 01/29/2015

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 4 item(s):

1. Your Amended August Monthly (7/1/14-7/31/14), received 1/29/15, Amended September Monthly (8/1/14-8/31/14), received 1/29/15, and Amended October Monthly (9/1/14-9/30/14), received 1/29/15, Reports combined do not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.

2. The Detailed Summary Page, on Line 18(a) Column A of your Amended August Monthly (7/1/14-7/31/14), received 1/29/15, Amended September Monthly (8/1/14-8/31/14), received 1/29/15, and Amended October Monthly (9/1/14-9/30/14), received 1/29/15, Reports combined, disclose \$87,970.79 in transfers from the non-federal account for allocated activity for the reporting period. However, Line 21 (a)(ii) Column A discloses \$79,578.50 as the non-federal share for allocated activity for the reporting period. While the

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non-federal account is permitted to transfer funds to the federal account for allocated activity, transfers for allocated activity must be made within a 70-day time period: no more than 10 days before or 60 days after the payment to the vendor. (11 CFR §§106.6(e)(2) and 106.7(f)(2)) Please clarify the nature of the transfers-in from the non-federal account.

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer back to the non-federal account, the total excessive amount which was received by your federal account outside the 70-day time period. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**3.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "INSURANCE." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**4.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "MEDIA PLACEMENT FEES." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support,

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attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1143.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlin E. Seufert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'S'.

Kaitlin Seufert  
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division